

REPORT

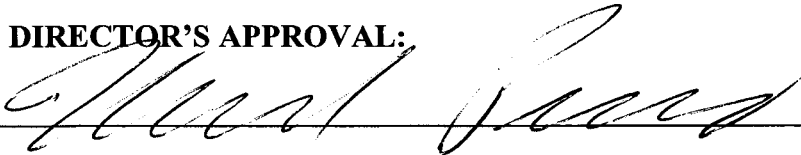
DATE: March 2, 2006

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1895,
griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Blueprint for California Water

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION:

As recommended by the Water Policy Task Force, the Energy and Environment Committee endorses for Regional Council adoption of Resolution 06-472-1 in support for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Blueprint for California Water.

BACKGROUND:

The policy committees and Board of ACWA have developed recommendations for highlighting the issues that must be addressed in order to better secure California's water future. The Blueprint, entitled "No Time to Waste" contains the following twelve recommendations:

- Improve the existing Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water conveyance system to increase flexibility and enhance water supply, water quality, levee stability and environmental protection in the near term.
- Evaluate long-term threats to the Delta levee and conveyance system and pursue actions to reduce risks to the state's water supply and the environment.
- Ensure delivery of adequate Colorado River supplies for Southern California and defend California's rights on the Colorado River.
- Implement and fund the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program.
- Develop additional groundwater and surface water storage, including proposed surface storage projects now under study if they are determined to be feasible.
- Support and fund local efforts to expand recycled water use and implement best management practices for urban and agricultural water use efficiency.

- Improve the quality of California's drinking water supplies to safeguard public health and enhance water quality for agriculture and the environment.
- Work with local agencies to overcome constraints to developing seawater and brackish groundwater desalination.
- Modernize the federal Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to allow water infrastructure projects, water supply and water quality activities to proceed while protecting species and habitats.
- Expedite the approval process for voluntary water transfers.
- Clarify and expand the state's role in flood control and promote multi-benefit flood control projects.
- Support integrated regional water management plans.

FISCAL IMPACT: All work related to the recommended staff action is contained within the adopted FY 05/06 budget under 06-075. Funding and implementation of this Program will be the fiscal responsibility of other entities.

DOCS # 118941 v2

RESOLUTION No. 06-472-1

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SUPPORTING “NO TIME TO WASTE”: A BLUEPRINT FOR
CALIFORNIA WATER**

WHEREAS, after an extended stakeholder process among many public water agencies, a statewide task force has developed and the ACWA Board has approved, a comprehensive policy document, *No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water*; and

WHEREAS, the *Blueprint* frames the discussion and decision-making required to provide all Californians with adequate supplies of high quality water, a healthy environment and a strong economy for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the time is now for the water community and other public interests to propose a policy statement and action plan for meeting California’s future water needs; and

WHEREAS, the *Blueprint* makes a number of common sense recommendations that will, when implemented, guarantee clean and safe drinking water, irrigation for agriculture, and protection for California’s natural resources and important ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the *Blueprint* addresses key factors that could change both the availability of California’s water supply and the most effective strategies for meeting water needs, including risks to groundwater quality, climate change, and new drinking water issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments hereby supports *No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all stakeholders in California’s water system are encouraged to support and implement the provisions of the *Blueprint*.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at a regular meeting on this 6th day of April, 2006.

TONI YOUNG
President, SCAG
Councilmember, City of Port Hueneme

Karen Tachiki
Chief Legal Counsel, SCAG

Mark Pisano
Executive Director, SCAG